

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~INCOMING
TELEGRAM

Department of State

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ACTION ARA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4838
INFO DOD/ISA
CSAF WASHDC~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 2690E.O. 12065: GDS (3/27/86) (CASTRO, RAUL) OR-M
TAGS: MILI SHUM PFOR AR
SUBJ: AWARDS TO ARGENTINE MILITARY

REF: 79 BUENOS AIRES 6454

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT

2. IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE SENT LAST AUGUST, I OUTLINED POLICY ESTABLISHED AT THIS POST FOR THE AWARD OF US DECORATIONS TO ARGENTINE OFFICERS. BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE USG ARISING FROM AWARDS TO OFFICERS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, I REQUESTED THAT HENCEFORTH AWARDS FOR SERVICE IN THE US BE MADE PRIOR TO THE OFFICERS DEPARTURE FROM THE US.

3. THREE CASES HAVE NOW ARISEN OF OFFICERS WHO DEPARTED THE US PRIOR TO REFTEL AND WHOSE AWARDS HAVE BEEN RECENTLY FORWARDED FOR PRESENTATION. THEY ARE:
(A) LEGION OF MERIT TO MAJOR GENERAL HIPOLITO MARIANI, AAF, AIR ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON FROM JANUARY 1978 - FEBRUARY 1979.

(B) AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL TO LT. COL. BENITO WIERNIA, AAF, INSTRUCTOR USAF ACADEMY FROM JUNE 1977 - JULY 1979.

(C) AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL TO LT. COL. RAUL MUJICA, AAF, INSTRUCTOR AT INTER AMERICAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY FOR MARCH 1977 - MARCH 1979.

WE HAVE REVIEWED THE FILES OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION AND THE RECORD OF ASSIGNMENTS OF THESE THREE OFFICERS. WE CAN FIND NO INFORMATION TO SUGGEST THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN OR APPROVED ACTIONS ABUSING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WE ARE SATISFIED THAT AWARDS TO THEM FOR SATISFACTORY SERVICE AT US SERVICE SCHOOLS OR AS ATTACHES SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS REWARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS.

4. SINCE THESE OFFICERS AWARDS WERE EARNED BUT NOT PRESENTED BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLICY SET FORTH IN REFTEL, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE USG ARISING FROM THE AWARDS IS REMOTE, I REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN THE PRESENTATION OF THESE AWARDS. AN AWARD CEREMONY IS PLANNED FOR 17 APRIL 1980 DURING VISIT OF MAJOR GENERAL TANGUY, USAF, CASTRO

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to

() Release () Exclude () Deny () Declassify

Exemptions b () () E.O. 13526 25x () ()

Declassify after

With concurrence of:

IPS by Q obtained not obt. Date 17 11-16~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ARA SAYS
MAJ. GEN.
TANGUY WAS
NOT REQUIRED
TO OBTAIN STATE
CLEARANCE FOR
HIS VISIT. PANAMA
CANAL ZONE-BASED
OFFICERS MUST OBTAIN
STATE CLEARANCE FOR
TRAVEL ONLY TO
CUBA AND
WHILE ARA

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Argentina (3 of 4)